

5 HUMAN MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES SPECIFIC FOR
 HEPATITIS C VIRUS (HCV) E2 ANTIGEN

Abstract of the Disclosure

10 The present invention relates to compositions
 derived from immunoglobulin molecules specific for the
 hepatitis C virus (HCV). More particularly, the
 invention is related to molecules which are capable of
 specifically binding with HCV E2 antigen. The molecules
15 are useful in specific binding assays, affinity
 purification schemes and pharmaceutical compositions for
 the prevention and treatment of HCV infection in
 mammalian subjects. The invention thus relates to novel
 human monoclonal antibodies specific for HCV E2 antigen,
20 fragments of such monoclonal antibodies, polypeptides
 having structure and function substantially homologous to
 antigen-binding sites obtained from such monoclonal
 antibodies, nucleic acid molecules encoding those
 polypeptides, and expression vectors comprising the
25 nucleic acid molecules.

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